

been told. At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the prison it was decided to remove from the mountains the men who had been at work at railroad building there for the past eighteen months. The company for whom we had been working agreed that this might be done on the 20th of January, although they greatly desired them to continue the work. Having determined upon the movement, I visited the camp, arriving at Spruce Pine on the evening of the 17th. While there I made every arrangement for as safe and comfortable a movement as I possibly could. On the 20th I returned to Marion. There was at that time much ice in the mountains, some snow, and a great deal of sleet. One hundred and eighty-five prisoners and employees left Spruce Pine on the morning of the 21st at daylight. An abundance of provisions had been prepared for them during their journey. Before leaving the camps each man was provided with a pair of new woolen pants, a good woolen coat, a pair of good under-pants, two good cotton shirts, a pair of new shoes and a pair of new socks. All had good caps with flaps to protect their ears. By my directions a single wagon and a large caldron and an ample supply of coffee had been sent ahead a day previous to a point half way from Spruce Pine to Marion, with instructions to have a supply of good, strong coffee prepared for the men by the time they should reach the half-way point. Four or five horse wagons accompanied the men, carrying blankets, provisions and such necessary articles, including extra shoes, etc., as might be needed on the trip. There were five sick men at the camp—two of them quite sick with pulmonary trouble. The other three, while not able to work, were still but slightly sick. Those who were but slightly sick rode on the wagons; those who were very sick were carried in the body of the wagon, which had been filled about half full with comfortable blankets. None who were at all sick were required to walk a step on the way from Spruce Pine to Marion. Medicines and milk

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